

Spring 1-15-1999

## ENG 3009C-001

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*Eastern Illinois University*

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Martone.  
English 3009C.

Office: 327 CH. Phone: 6982.  
Office Hrs: MWF 10:00-11:00;  
Tues. 1:00-2:00, and by appt.

3009C-001

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JR

### Course Description.

Myth and Culture is an introduction to comparative mythology. In this course we will first explore a range of Native American, European, and Eastern works, as well as one that focuses on aboriginal Australia, and ask how these ways of looking at the world compare to our own. We'll then turn to two important modern novels and an autobiography in order to explore the workings of the mythological imagination in immediately familiar worlds.

### Texts.

Chatwin, *The Songlines*.  
Ellison, *Invisible Man*.  
Hesse, *Steppenwolf*.  
Humphries, *Ovid: The Metamorphoses*.  
Meyeroff, *Peyote Hunt*.  
Nearing, *The Good Life*.  
Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks*.  
Powers, *Yuwipi*.  
Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*.  
Richards, *The Iliad*.  
Sandars, *Gilgamesh*.  
Wu, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*.

### Requirements and Evaluation.

**Regular attendance and participation.** (You will be allowed 2 absences. I will lower your final grade by one letter for each unexcused absence thereafter.)

*Short papers and quizzes* (25% of grade).

*Midterm and final examinations* (50% of grade).

*7-page final paper on an approved topic* (25% of grade).

You must complete all course requirements punctually to receive a passing grade in the course.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive accommodations, which I will gladly provide, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

### Schedule.

- **January 20-22.** Introductory. *Black Elk Speaks*. Themes for discussion: The nature of myth. Personal and collective vision. "Translation" and the problematics of studying other cultures. American History.
- **January 25-29.** Powers, *Yuwipi*. Themes for discussion: The Shaman. Spiritual and physical illness. The Nature of ritual.
- **February 1-5.** Meyeroff, *Peyote Hunt*. Themes for discussion: The pilgrimage. Ordinary time versus the eternal. Art and spirituality.

- **February 8-10.** Chatwin, *The Songlines*. Themes for discussion: The pilgrimage. Sacred space. Music as myth. Materialism.
- **February 15-19.** Sandars, *Gilgamesh*. Themes for discussion: The hero. Problem of mortality and the Western view of nature. Misogyny.
- **February 22- 26.** Richards, *The Iliad of Homer*. Themes for discussion: Love and War.
- **March 1-5.** Conferences. Midterm examination.
- **March 8-12.** Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*. Themes for discussion: "Nature" and the "Human" as concepts. Transformation. Art and gender.
- **March 15-19.** Spring Recess.
- **March 22-26.** Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*. Themes for discussion: Suffering and the end of suffering.
- **March 29-April 2.** Lao Tzu, in Wu, *A Sourcebook of Chinese Philosophy*. Chuang Tzu, if time permits. Chinese views of nature, chi, and the Way. Conceptual thought.
- **April 5-9.** Hesse, *Steppenwolf*. **Topic for final paper due.**
- **April 12-16.** Ellison, *Invisible Man*. Conferences.
- **April 19- 23.** Ellison, cont'd. Conferences.
- **April 26-30.** Nearing, *The Good Life*. **Final paper due on April 30.**